

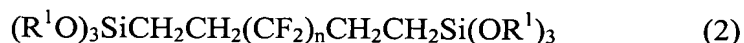
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for preparing a coating fluid containing a polysiloxane, which comprises forming a reaction mixture comprising a silicon compound (A) of the formula (1):



wherein R is a C₁₋₅ alkyl group, a silicon compound (B) of the formula (2):

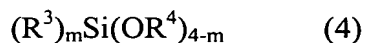


wherein R¹ is a C₁₋₅ alkyl group, and n is an integer of from 1 to 13, an alcohol (C) of the formula (3):



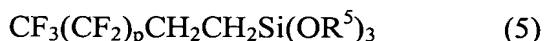
wherein R² is a hydrogen atom or a C₁₋₁₂ alkyl group ~~[[()]]~~ wherein the alkyl group ~~may is~~ optionally be substituted by one or more substituents of the same or different types selected from the group consisting of a C₁₋₃ alkyl group, a C₁₋₃ hydroxyalkyl group, a C₂₋₆ alkoxyalkyl group, a C₂₋₆ hydroxyalkoxyalkyl group and a C₃₋₆ alkoxyalkoxyalkyl group~~[[()]]~~, and oxalic acid (D), in a ratio of from 0.05 to 0.43 mol of the silicon compound (B) per mol of the silicon compound (A), in a ratio of from 0.5 to 100 mol of the alcohol (C) per mol of the total alkoxy groups contained in the silicon compounds (A) and (B) and in a ratio of 0.2 to 2 mol of the oxalic acid (D) per mol of the total alkoxy groups contained in the silicon compounds (A) and (B), and heating ~~this~~ the reaction mixture at a temperature of from 50 to 180°C until the total amount of the silicon compounds (A) and (B) remaining in the reaction mixture becomes at most 5 mol%, while ~~it is maintained at~~ maintaining a SiO₂ concentration of from 0.5 to 10 wt% as calculated from silicon atoms in the reaction mixture and ~~while in the~~ absence of water is maintained.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The process for preparing a coating fluid according to Claim 1, wherein in the formation of the reaction mixture, a modifier (E) of the formula (4):



wherein R^3 is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-12} alkyl group wherein ~~[[()]]~~the alkyl group ~~may~~ is optionally be substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of an amino group, a glycidoxy group, a methacryloxy group and a ureide group~~[[()]]~~, a C_{2-12} alkenyl group or a phenyl group, R^4 is a C_{1-5} alkyl group, and m is an integer of from 1 to 3, is further incorporated as a modifier (E) in a ratio of from 0.02 to 0.2 mol per mol of the silicon compound (A).

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The process for preparing a coating fluid according to Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein in the formation of the reaction mixture, a fluoroalkyl group-containing alkoxy silane (F) of the formula (5):



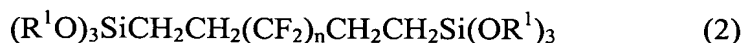
wherein R^5 is a C_{1-5} alkyl group, and p is an integer of from 0 to 12, is further incorporated as a fluoroalkyl group-containing alkoxy silane (F) in such a ratio that the total amount of the silicon compound (B) and the fluoroalkyl group-containing alkoxy silane (F) is from 0.05 to 0.43 mol per mol of the silicon compound (A).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The process for preparing a coating fluid according to Claim 1, ~~2 or 3~~, wherein at least one sol selected from the group consisting of silica sol, alumina sol, titania sol, zirconia sol, magnesium fluoride sol and ceria sol is ~~further~~ incorporated as an additive (G) to the coating fluid.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A process for forming a coating film, which comprises forming a reaction mixture comprising a silicon compound (A) of the formula (1):



wherein R is a C₁₋₅ alkyl group, a silicon compound (B) of the formula (2):

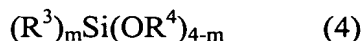


wherein R¹ is a C₁₋₅ alkyl group, and n is an integer of from 1 to 13, an alcohol (C) of the formula (3):



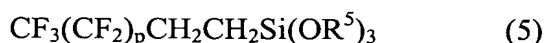
wherein R² is a hydrogen atom or a C₁₋₁₂ alkyl group wherein ~~[[()]]~~the alkyl group ~~may~~ is optionally be substituted by one or more substituents of the same or different types selected from the group consisting of a C₁₋₃ alkyl group, a C₁₋₃ hydroxyalkyl group, a C₂₋₆ alkoxyalkyl group, a C₂₋₆ hydroxyalkoxyalkyl group and a C₃₋₆ alkoxyalkoxyalkyl group~~[[()]]~~, and oxalic acid (D), in a ratio of from 0.05 to 0.43 mol of the silicon compound (B) per mol of the silicon compound (A), in a ratio of from 0.5 to 100 mol of the alcohol (C) per mol of the total alkoxy groups contained in the silicon compounds (A) and (B) and in a ratio of 0.2 to 2 mol of the oxalic acid (D) per mol of the total alkoxy groups contained in the silicon compounds (A) and (B); heating ~~this~~ the reaction mixture at a temperature of from 50 to 180°C until the total amount of the silicon compounds (A) and (B) remaining in the reaction mixture becomes at most 5 mol%, while ~~it is maintained at~~ maintaining a SiO₂ concentration of from 0.5 to 10 wt% as calculated from silicon atoms in the reaction mixture and ~~while~~ in the absence of water ~~is maintained, to form,~~ forming a solution of a polysiloxane ~~thereby formed;~~ then, and applying a coating fluid comprising the polysiloxane solution on a substrate surface to form a coating~~[[;]]~~, and heat-curing the coating at a temperature of from 80 to 450°C, to form a coating film having a refractive index of from 1.28 to 1.38 and a contact angle with water of from 90° to 115°, as adhered to the substrate surface.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The process for forming a coating film according to Claim 5, wherein in the formation of the reaction mixture, a modifier (E) of the formula (4):



wherein R^3 is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-12} alkyl group $[[[]]$ wherein the alkyl group ~~may~~ is optionally be substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of an amino group, a glycidoxy group, a methacryloxy group and a ureide group $[[[]]]$, a C_{2-12} alkenyl group or a phenyl group, R^4 is a C_{1-5} alkyl group, and m is an integer of from 1 to 3, is further incorporated as a modifier (E) in a ratio of from 0.02 to 0.2 mol per mol of the silicon compound (A).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The process for preparing a coating film according to Claim 5 ~~or 6~~, wherein in the formation of the reaction mixture, a fluoroalkyl group-containing alkoxysilane (F) of the formula (5):



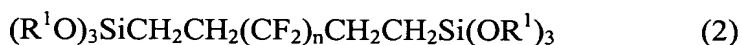
wherein R^5 is a C_{1-5} alkyl group, and p is an integer of from 0 to 12, is further incorporated as a fluoroalkyl group-containing alkoxysilane (F) in such a ratio that the total amount of the silicon compound (B) and the fluoroalkyl group-containing alkoxysilane (F) is from 0.05 to 0.43 mol per mol of the silicon compound (A).

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The process for forming a coating film according to Claim 5, ~~6 or 7~~, wherein at least one sol selected from the group consisting of silica sol, alumina sol, titania sol, zirconia sol, magnesium fluoride sol and ceria sol is ~~further~~ incorporated as an additive (G) to the coating fluid.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A coating film having a refractive index of from 1.28 to 1.38 and a contact angle with water of from 90° to 115°, which is formed as adhered to a substrate surface by forming a reaction mixture comprising a silicon compound (A) of the formula (1):



wherein R is a C₁₋₅ alkyl group, a silicon compound (B) of the formula (2):

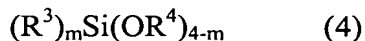


wherein R¹ is a C₁₋₅ alkyl group, and n is an integer of from 1 to 13, an alcohol (C) of the formula (3):



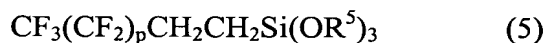
wherein R² is a hydrogen atom or a C₁₋₁₂ alkyl group wherein ~~[[()]]~~the alkyl group ~~may is~~ optionally be substituted by one or more substituents of the same or different types selected from the group consisting of a C₁₋₃ alkyl group, a C₁₋₃ hydroxyalkyl group, a C₂₋₆ alkoxyalkyl group, a C₂₋₆ hydroxyalkoxyalkyl group and a C₃₋₆ alkoxyalkoxyalkyl group~~}, and oxalic acid (D), in a ratio of from 0.05 to 0.43 mol of the silicon compound (B) per mol of the silicon compound (A), in a ratio of from 0.5 to 100 mol of the alcohol (C) per mol of the total alkoxy groups contained in the silicon compounds (A) and (B) and in a ratio of 0.2 to 2 mol of the oxalic acid (D) per mol of the total alkoxy groups contained in the silicon compounds (A) and (B); heating ~~this~~ the reaction mixture at a temperature of from 50 to 180°C until the total amount of the silicon compounds (A) and (B) remaining in the reaction mixture becomes at most 5 mol%, while ~~it is maintained at~~ maintaining a SiO₂ concentration of from 0.5 to 10 wt% as calculated from silicon atoms in the reaction mixture and ~~while in the~~ in the absence of water ~~is maintained~~, to form a solution of a polysiloxane ~~thereby formed; then,~~ applying a coating fluid comprising the polysiloxane solution on a substrate surface to form a coating~~[[;]]~~ and heat-curing the coating at a temperature of from 80 to 450°C.~~

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The coating film according to Claim 9, wherein in the formation of the reaction mixture, a modifier (E) of the formula (4):



wherein R^3 is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-12} alkyl group ~~[[()]]~~ wherein the alkyl group ~~may~~ is optionally be substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of an amino group, a glycidoxy group, a methacryloxy group and a ureide group~~[[()]]~~, a C_{2-12} alkenyl group or a phenyl group, R^4 is a C_{1-5} alkyl group, and m is an integer of from 1 to 3, is further incorporated as a modifier (E) in a ratio of from 0.02 to 0.2 mol per mol of the silicon compound (A).

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The coating film according to Claim 9 ~~or 10~~, wherein in the formation of the reaction mixture, a fluoroalkyl group-containing alkoxy silane (F) of the formula (5):



wherein R^5 is a C_{1-5} alkyl group, and p is an integer of from 0 to 12, is further incorporated as a fluoroalkyl group-containing alkoxy silane (F) in such a ratio that the total amount of the silicon compound (B) and the fluoroalkyl group-containing alkoxy silane (F) is from 0.05 to 0.43 mol per mol of the silicon compound (A).

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The coating film according to Claim 9, ~~10 or 11~~, wherein at least one sol selected from the group consisting of silica sol, alumina sol, titania sol, zirconia sol, magnesium fluoride sol and ceria sol is further incorporated as an additive (G) to the coating fluid.